

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER FOR FOOD

re: the latest Food Situation in the State.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now the Hon. Minister will make a statement so that much of the matter may be clarified and the Members will know what the position is. I would very seriously suggest that this particular time might be utilised by the Whips if they please to arrange and co-ordinate as regards the time. I have no objection to sit for half-an-hour more. From the very beginning let there be co-ordination. Let there be no negligence about it from the beginning. Do not afterwards come and say that 'I want five minutes and ten minutes' and so on.

Sri SIDDIAH KASHIMATH (Shirahatti).—The entire day should be given for Food debate. Let the Hon. Minister give reply tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have no idea of it. Why does he makes suggestions after coming here? why was the Member not met me? Anyway, I will have the Business Advisory Committee meeting at 3 o' clock. I shall try to deal with it.

† Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food).—Sri on the 26th February 1966 I had made statement on the Floor of this House about the food position in the State. As the Hon'ble Speaker has desired that I might indicate to the House the latest position and the thinking of Government in regard to the present situation I am making this statement. The particulars relating to the prospects of procurement and allied matters have already been indicated to this House and I do not wish to repeat these details again. I should however like to mention that the following quantities of foodgrains have been procured till 17-3-1966.—

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| Paddy | 93,236 Tonnes (equivalent to 62,158 tonnes of rice) |
| Jowar | 26,484 Tonnes |
| Maize | 131 Tonnes |

The total quantity of foodgrains so far procured (expressing paddy in terms of rice) comes to 88,773 tonnes as against a revised target of 1 lakh tonnes of all foodgrains put together.

We are now issuing 3.2 Kgs. of wheat and 3 Kgs. of rice per adult per month in Bangalore City and the Kolar Gold Fields. In view of the fact that the availability of foodgrains in the open market will gradually become difficult in the second quarter of the calendar year and taking into consideration the total foodgrains which are now available with Government and which are expected to become available to Government, it is proposed to raise the total quantum of the issue of foodgrains in these Cities to 8 Kgs. per adult per month with effect from 1-4-1966, comprising 3 Kgs. of wheat, 3 Kgs. of rice and 2 Kgs. of milo. The consumer will be given the option of taking milo in lieu of the rice and/or wheat components of the ration. Since it is the cheapest grain which is available with Government, this option might be of advantage to the poorer sections of the community in these Cities.

(SRI B. D. JATTI)

As the Hon'ble Members are aware the Government of India have been giving us substantial allotments of wheat and milo but are finding it difficult to give us adequate quantities of rice on account of their several commitments on the limited quantities of rice which they can command. They have, however, promised to help us to the maximum possible extent. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Madras whom we approached in the matter have also been good enough to help us.

Wheat is now being issued in the following Cities/Towns/areas with a concentration of labour population at the rate of 3 Kgs. per adult per month and other foodgrains are being given to the extent available, on a purely *ad hoc* basis.—

Mysore; Hubli-Dharwar; Belgaum; Gulbarga-Shahabad; Mangalore; Bellary; Bijapur; Davangere; Gadag-Betgeri; Bhadravathi; Hospet; Sharavathi; Udipi; Bagalkot; Bidar; Nipani; Harihar; Dandeli; Koppal; Hatti Gold Mines.

It has now been decided that in addition to 3 Kgs. of wheat, 2 Kgs. of jowar in areas in which jowar is procured locally and milo in other areas should be given per adult per month with effect from 1-4-1966.

Three (3) Kgs. of wheat are being given per adult per month to the following categories of the population living outside Cities/towns/areas with a concentration of labour population referred to above:

- (a) Plantation labour;
- (b) Labour engaged in the larger industrial undertakings;
- (c) Employees of the Indian Railways;
- (d) Class III and Class IV employees of Government.

It has been decided that in respect of all these categories of persons as also weavers in Towns in which there is a concentration of weavers foodgrains should be issued at the rate of 5 Kgs. per adult per month with effect from 1-4-1966 on the same basis as is indicated in respect of Cities/Towns/Areas with a concentration of labour population.

Foodgrains are being issued at the rate of 5 Kgs. per adult per month to the labour employed by the Indian Railways in certain specified areas and the inmates of hostels and other institutions. They will also be given an additional quantity of 2 Kgs. in terms of milo per adult per month with effect from 1-4-1966.

Arrangements have been made for issuing foodgrains at the rate of 10 Kgs. per adult per month to the labour engaged on works in the scarcity affected areas. This arrangement will be stabilised and issues made at this rate with immediate effect.

The Government of India have given 1,000 tonnes of wheat to the State for gratuitous distribution among the old and the infirm. Instructions are being issued that the beneficiaries belonging to these categories must be selected and that arrangements should be made for distributing these foodgrains among these categories of the population over a period

of time. Government have also decided that foodgrains should be issued at the rate of 5 Kgs. per-adult per month with effect from 1-5-1966 to all the residents of towns with a population of 5,000 and above which are not already covered by the schemes mentioned above.

Government have also decided to issue 5 Kgs. of foodgrains per adult per month in respect of rural artisans and agricultural labour having no lands of their own. In the meanwhile they will continue to get foodgrains on an *ad hoc* basis as hitherto.

The total quantity of foodgrains that would be issued for the month of April 66 to identified categories of population would come to 5,550 tonnes of Rice, 13,580 tonnes of Wheat, 8,370 tonnes of Milo and 1,343 tonnes of Jowar. In addition to this, 3,200 tonnes of Rice 22,500 tonnes of Wheat, 11,000 tonnes of Milo and 4,000 tonnes of Jowar and such quantities of other foodgrains as are procured locally and as could be made available to the deficit districts from the surplus districts will be issued through Fair Price Shops.

During the month of May and the further months the total issues will continue at this rate but a portion of the issues made as on *ad hoc* basis during April 66 will be given to certain identified categories of population like people in the towns with a population of 5,000 and over and village Artisans and Agricultural Labour in other areas. Statement-A shows the quantities of foodgrains proposed to be issued in April 66; Statement-B shows the quantities of foodgrains proposed to be issued in May and in the further months; Statement-C shows the issue prices at the retail points of the foodgrains which are being issued through Fair Price Shops.

I will keep some statements on the table of this House for the use of the Hon'ble Members.

2-30 P.M.

Statement "A" shows the quantities of foodgrains proposed to be issued in April 1966. Statement "B" shows the quantities of foodgrains proposed to be issued in May 1966 and in the further months. Statement "C" shows the issue price at the retail point from fair price shops.

Sri S. SIVAPPA (Sravanabelagola).—What is the total quantity for each month?

Sri B. D. JATTI.—All these figures are in the statements. I will place them on the Table. If Hon'ble Members want further details, I will give them.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair.]

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1966-67—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Demand Nos. 15 and 53

(Contd.)

† ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಶಿವಪ್ಪ (ಶ್ರವಣಬೆಳಗೊಳ).—ಸಭಾಪತಿಗಳೇ, ಈಗತಾನೇ ಆಹಾರ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂಥ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆಹಾರ